

I am a currently registered nurse, residing in NSW.

However, I make this submission on behalf of my wife, who up until 1st. July 2010 was also a registered nurse (Diploma of Health Science graduate). She held NSW Nursing Registration continuously from 1994.

APHRA has removed her from the register of Nurses, as she incorrectly filled out the renewal documentation. Mistakenly, she thought it had been over five years since she last worked as a registered nurse, or engaged in any 'nursing education'. It was in fact 4.5 years, given she had commenced a bachelor degree conversion program at University of Sydney in 2005, and ceased work in June of 2006.

After an extended maternity break, she wished to return to Nursing, and is currently 'removed' from the APHRA register of Nurses.

She has written to APHRA, visited the Sydney office, and telephoned on a number of occasions – all to no avail. She can not get a definitive response from any APHRA officer – that she can be re-registered again, or what exactly her options are. She informed the officers of her error in filling out her registration renewal. They told her, she will need to recommence a new application – which thus far has taken three months, and a fee of \$219. with no result. By June, her five years will be marked, and we can not afford the \$10,000. plus option of renewal.

Initially, she was informed, she needed to present a referral letter to the NSW College of Nursing (APHRA's NSW provider of Nursing re-education), at a cost of \$10,000.

(which must be paid to the College of Nursing up front)

In other States of Australia, there are up to several providers of this 're-education' training. In NSW there is only one – at an absurd cost of \$10,000. !! This used to be provided free, via education programs run by Area Health Services, and the nurses were paid. In this current scenario, APHRA expect prospective applicants to not only pay \$10,000. But to also work for 150 hours with no wages !!! (work experience / refreshing of skills).

The entire organisation is a dismal failure to the Public of NSW. We need more nurses in the workforce, and APHRA is preventing this with excessive redtape, personal cost and family hardship.